



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

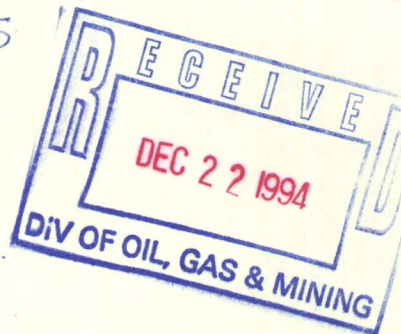
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M/035/015



Orig: W Hedberg
cc: S Hedberg
H Sauer
12/21/94
BJ

December 20, 1994

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

Re: Kennecott Tailings Impoundment; Request for
Technical Assistance

Dear Mr. Carter:

The Division of Water Quality is in the process of reviewing both the existing and planned expansion portions of the Kennecott Tailings Impoundment for a ground water discharge permit. One of the technical issues involved with this review is assessment of the potential for the tailings to acidify following the conclusion of active mining operations. Your Division also has an interest in this matter, particularly as it relates to long term reclamation success.

This letter is to express our desire to coordinate with you on the review of the Tailings Impoundment and to request technical assistance from members of your staff with expertise in acid base accounting and prediction of future tailings chemistry as a result of oxidizing conditions that could exist many years from now in the tailings material. Members of our respective staffs (Henry Sauer, Tony Gallegos, and John Whitehead) have met once to discuss this issue. Given Mr. Sauer's expertise on the various analytical methods and interpretation of results from the tests used in this type of analysis, would it be possible for him to spend further time on this matter? This would involve:

- a few hours each pay period for the next month or so reviewing and interpreting Kennecott data and reports as they are submitted.
- Attending a meeting with Kennecott's consultant to discuss data and methods (tentatively scheduled for January 9, 1995)
- Proposing additional methods or analysis to complete assessment of the acid potential as needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, please feel free to contact John Whitehead of my staff (538-6146) if you have questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

DAO:jw:wfm

cc: Terry Sadler, Salt Lake County Health Dept.
Brent Everett, DERR

F:\KENNECOTT\TAILINGS\DOGM.LTR
FILE:KENNECOTT TAILINGS

Joe: I can't tell what the magnitude of this request (time wise is) please see if you can get a feel for a potential work commitment, and let me know how your program would be impacted. L.B. 12-27